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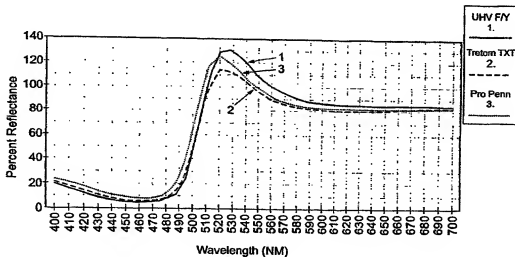
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(54) Title: DYED FABRIC MATERIAL, METHOD OF PRODUCING THE SAME AND USE OF THE FABRIC MATERIAL IN THE MANUFACTURE OF SPORTS BALLS



(57) Abstract: A method of dyeing fabric material which comprises the step of contacting said fabric material with a bleaching agent prior to or simultaneously with contacting said fabric material with a dyestuff providing said colour. The fabric material so obtained is suitable for use in sports ball manufacture, especially tennis ball manufacture. The coloured fabric material preferably includes wool fibres and exhibits the following characteristics after dyeing: i) a chroma value of 100 or more; ii) a lightness value of 95 or more; and iii) a reflectance value of 120 or more. Preferably the dye is a yellow fluorescent dye.